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THE PANTHER

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

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Volume 86, Issue 1

Panthers win big in City of Angels



Courtesy of John Posey

Going down: A Panther defender takes down an opponent in the Angel City Classic game in Los Angeles, Calif.

By Richard White
Sports Editor

A beautiful blue sky, a soothing breeze, and not a drop of rain in sight, are words that describe the weather at the Angel City Classic, held Sept. 8 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles, Calif. This would be a first for Prairie View, as the football team headed to Los Angeles to battle North Carolina A&T State University.

The opponent, a member of the Mid-

Eastern Athletic Conference, finished off last season with a 0-11 record. Prairie View, just coming off a Labor Day Classic win, was anxious to put another win in its column.

The Panthers chose to kick the ball off to the A&T Bulldogs, giving North Carolina first possession. All was quiet throughout the first quarter for the teams, a missed field goal for North Carolina, and a lost fumble in North Carolina territory for Prairie View.

The second quarter was the start of something good for Prairie View. Riente Jones blocked two North Carolina punts, and both

were returned for a touchdown by Val Ford, with one field goal. Faggard missed one PAT that kept North Carolina in striking distance.

During halftime the Marching Storm brought some southern hospitality to the audience of 32,278. The Marching Storm marched off the field to a standing ovation from the Los Angeles crowd.

In the very first play of the third quarter, quarterback Chris Gibson threw an interception which gave North Carolina immediate possession. When the third quarter came to a close, Gibson engineered a drive that gave the Panthers a 20-point lead going into the fourth quarter with his nine-yard rushing touchdown.

As the game was winding down, North Carolina caught Prairie View dozing off, and took advantage with a 32-yard touchdown pass.

The key to sealing the game for Prairie View was the 52-yard punt by Pedro Ventura that put the ball on the North Carolina one-yard line. On the third play of North Carolina's drive, Val Ford would record the safety for the Panthers, and seal the game. The final score was 22-7 in Prairie View's favor.

Offensive standouts were Chris Gibson with 145 passing yards, Calvin Harris with 64 rushing yards, Anthony Weeden with six catches for 61 yards, and Joe Townsend with five catches for 61 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball were Gary Hicks with 12 tackles, Chris Adingupu with eight tackles, and Marquis Johnson with a sack.

The Panthers will look to strengthen their toughness, and level of play against conference rival Southern.

The game will be played in Baton Rouge, La., September 15, at 6 p.m.

Mina Eames, a pioneer, inspiration to classmates

By Ashley Slayton
News Editor

Prairie View A&M University recently mourned the loss of one of its brightest and productive graduates, Mina Rosenthal-Eames.

Eames, 31, the first graduate of the university's Undergraduate Medical Academy in 2006, was fatally shot in Houston by her estranged husband Clifton Eames, 35, on Monday, Aug. 20. Eames was in her second year of enrollment at the University of Texas Dental Branch.

"Mina was the first student I met March 15, 2004, my first day as director of the Undergraduate Medical Academy," said Dr. Dennis Daniels. "And from that day until the day of her graduation in 2006, it was rare that we did not stop to talk about her academic progression."

Eames, who has been described as a pioneer and inspiration to her fellow classmates, earned a bachelor's degree in biology.

"From an academic perspective, she was an excellent student. She was dedicated, hardworking and always looking for opportunities to improve herself," said Daniels.

Daniels believes Eames leaves behind a legacy of community focus, humor and professionalism. "Just enough won't do. The standard really is excellence," he continued.

Eames, who planned to become an orthodontist, worked as a dental assistant during college.

According to Catherine M. Flaitz, dean of the University of Texas Dental Branch, an endowment fund will be created in honor of Eames that will address oral health disparities in at-risk women and children.



Productive alumna: Mina Rosenthal-Eames, 31, was the first graduate of the Undergraduate Medical Academy.

Funeral services were held Saturday Aug. 25, with approximately 300 people in attendance.

When asked about his best memory of Eames, Daniels said, "Her smile. Her smile that communicated warmth. A smile that communicated 'we're gonna get it done,' a smile that communicated 'no problem is too big that if we work together we won't achieve it.' Nothing is too big."

Financial aid office tries new ways

By Chantel Gage
Panther Staff

Every year the financial aid office is full of students inquiring about their financial aid status. This year has been no exception.

Carlos Clark, assistant provost for the Office of Student Financial Aid, is helping to improve the organization and the overall financial aid process.

"We are trying to create new innovative ways to process information more quickly, response times to questions could be improved and issues like the verification process will be worked on by next year," Clark said.

This year 630 students arrived at the financial aid office on the first day of class and the average wait time was two to four hours, the assistant provost said.

"Many of the questions that students had or have can be answered by just utilizing Panther Tracks. What took so long for these questions to be answered is that there were so many questions and there are only seven financial aid counselors," Clark stated.

The financial aid office accommodated most students by moving to the John B. Coleman Library. Some students felt this move also presented a problem.


"I did not like when financial aid was in the library because we pay to use that facility and we were not being granted access to it," said Clarissa Marshall, a junior biology major.

Clark said the number of calls financial aid receives per day is approximately 1,500 and 30,000 were received in August alone.

In order to reduce these numbers some ideas that are in effect are, "to have a call center implemented in order to answer frequently asked questions more efficiently, as well as having better outreach programs, where someone will be able to assist students in filling out FAFSA and other forms correctly," said Clark.

Since last year, financial aid has improved by moving from a manual system of operation to an electronic one.

See Financial Aid on page 2



Constitution Day Program

September 17, 2007

12:30pm

Water Fountain

Cyclists attend annual Tour de Pink bike tour

By Arlita Pounicy
Panther Staff

As the sun rose Sunday, Sept. 9, cars filled with cyclists swarmed onto campus for the third annual Tour de Pink bike tour.

The bike tour is part of the Pink Ribbons Project, a motion to raise money to help fight breast cancer. Tour de Pink has raised more than \$1.5 million since 1995. The proceeds are used to acquire mammograms for women and to offer health and breast cancer education demonstrations to schools and businesses around the Houston area.

The event commenced with cyclists registering at the volunteer table to pay a \$75 pledge fee and sign up to ride the 12, 23, 47, 63, 80, and 100-mile routes.

"I know people that have breast cancer and it could be me at anytime and plus this event helps keep me in shape," said Kim Romans, 50.

Many cyclists were there to ride for the cause. Either they knew someone with breast cancer, were battling breast cancer themselves, or just supported the cause.

Lauren Waters, 16, expressed her sentiments. "I came to help support this event because breast cancer does run in my family. My aunt has it and my cousin has it, so I feel like I should be out here supporting because that could be me one day."

Volunteers were also passionate about the event's motive.

Jin Chung, a first time cyclist and representative of Methodist Hospital said, "My favorite part was all the support that was provid-



By Evan White, The Panther

Fight Breast Cancer: Woman cycles with child at Tour de Pink.

ed for this. It's fun and it's a really good cause. When you come out to an event like this everyone has the same interest. It's a win-win situation."

Pink is the official color of the breast cancer campaign, sym-

bolizing healing and comfort.

However, one team had a set of pink balloons interspersed with green. When asked why they added green, the group said that green symbolizes growth, renewal, and new beginnings.

Campus placed on emergency lockdown

By Nicole Morris
Panther Staff

University authorities ordered a campus lockdown Friday, Aug. 31 after a freshman began receiving a series of threatening phone calls from her estranged boyfriend.

According to Lieutenant David Webb, the student's boyfriend left messages telling her he was going to shoot her. Believing that the estranged boyfriend intended to do bodily harm, the lieutenant located the student and ensured her safety.

Afterwards he proceeded to issue a campus lockdown in case the estranged boyfriend was on or enroute to campus.

"To assure the safety of students the gates near Phases I, II and III were closed to set up a one-way campus exit strategy," Lieutenant Webb said. "The lockdown did not disrupt normal operation because

authorities had a vivid description of the vehicle and suspect."

"The lockdown lasted approximately two and a half hours, during which there was no sign of the suspect." Had the suspect surfaced, Webb said, "the department would have arrested him and filed charges." Sources report the freshman is safe and back on campus.

Police Chief Algray Pettus said "the campus went into lockdown just to take necessary precautions to address the threats so they would not progress." Despite the quick response by the campus police department, they have yet to apprehend the suspect.

The complainant's boyfriend does not attend Prairie View A&M University but visits the campus frequently. According to Pettus, "there have been no sightings of him on campus since the threatening phone calls occurred and the case is an on-going investigation."

Victims of domestic violence, now referred to as family violence, endure a lot of trauma. Because this type of violence is prominent on college campuses, Prairie View A&M University has decided to make changes.

Pettus said, "The police department is combining forces with the Department of Languages and Communications, Business Affairs, Auxiliary Services, the president's office and others to execute a program that will alert the campus community in the event of an emergency."

For those interested in more information and learning more about the enhancement of PVAMU's campus security and emergency communications systems, please make plans to attend a meeting with a public safety officer on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. on the second floor of the Willie Tempton Sr. Memorial Student Center.

University makes administrative changes

By Jerrell Allen
Online Editor

Several departments of campus administration have undergone changes in the fall of 2007.

Dr. Clement Glenn, was named interim associate vice president for student affairs.

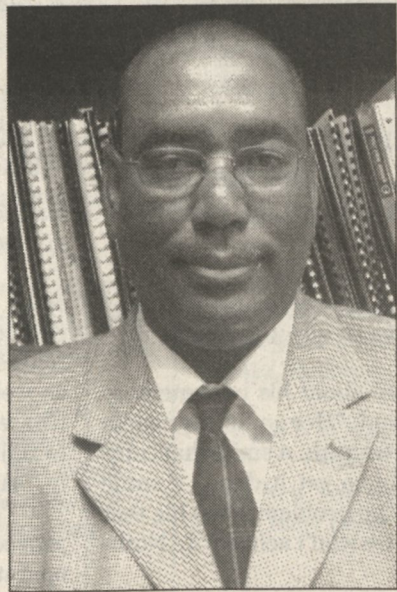
The former interim associate vice president for student affairs, Dr. Kelvin Kirby, recently resigned from the position in order to return to his faculty position in the College of Engineering.

Glenn, who is a professor in the graduate program of the College of Education, also serves as speaker of the faculty senate, but must soon resign from that position because of his new administrative position in student affairs.

His approach to student affairs is an ambitious, student-centered program that focuses on five aspects of student life to ultimately improve graduation rates for incoming freshmen.

"I'm excited about these changes. I think they'll really make a difference," said Sharon Lewis, a senior education major.

"Dr. Glenn is a great professor and I'm sure he'll be a wonderful addition to the office of stu-



By Evan White, The Panther

Dr. Clement Glenn: was recently named interim associate vice president for student affairs.

dent affairs," Lewis continued.

Currently, graduation rates for the incoming freshman class of 2002 stand at 34 percent (these figures are based on a six-year benchmark), but Glenn hopes to improve that figure to as high as 70 percent for students of the incoming 2009 class.

"To do this," Glenn said, "I am attempting to both integrate the

Office of Student Affairs with other campus services; the University College, the campus police department, and the health and wellness center, as well as making professors more active in the campus community."

"I want to work on student-centered issues," Glenn continued, outlining his prospects for the future of Prairie View as a faculty-student collaborative.

"And I'm hoping to focus on improving student graduation rates, improving the health and wellness programs, improving individual student achievement, student retention, and student recruitment."

Glenn said that his position is a unique one, and hopes to make the Office of Student Affairs the center of campus life for Prairie View students.

Other administrative changes are in the engineering and education colleges.

Dr. Kendall Harris was recently appointed dean of the College of Engineering. Harris, a former associate dean, replaced Dr. Milton Bryant who retired in August.

Dr. Laxley Rodney was named interim dean of the College of Education, replacing Dr. Paul Mehta who retired as dean in August.

Neither Harris nor Rodney could be reached for comment.

General assembly sparks new focus

By Alexis Benton
Panther Staff

The General Student Assembly held at the William "Billy" J. Nicks Auditorium Aug. 29 focused on assuring students of quality services and education.

The assembly began with a welcome and invocation by Johnnie Jones, vice president of SGA, and Mark Williams II, Mr. Prairie View 2007-2008. By the end of their speeches, the confident expressions from the crowd of more than 1,000 students and faculty members made it apparent that a better future for the university was not an optimistic approach, but a realistic goal for everyone.

Freshman business major Tanesha Wells said, "I am very hopeful about this year and it's encouraging to hear and see your classmates all share a common ground to succeed," as she sat with others to hear positive words from the speakers of this semester's assembly.

"I thought this was going to be a totally different environment when I first got here and was surprised by how a lot of students were really trying to make a difference by either helping or just trying their best to get an education no matter what," Wells continued.

The assembly proceeded with SGA President Andre Evans delivering an empowering speech on expectations between student leaders and students. He focused on the pledge from student leaders to help make students' college experience as pleasurable as it is progressive.

"I plan to create a tradition of preeminence, and hopefully change the mind frames of the incoming students to start a more

progressive pendulum among all the students," Evans stated. "A more positive era will begin and students will continue to have the conviction to succeed."

President George C. Wright then commented on three distinct elements that he wanted students to focus on: the value of an education, the importance of saying "no, not right now," and the significance of reading.

"Your education, Prairie View students, is an investment for your future. These students know that hard work now will pay off later," stated Wright as he touched on the subject of working students in the community.

Wright wanted students to critically analyze how they spoke of themselves, the appropriateness of what they said and how it can affect everyone around them.

"I definitely feel that students should be more careful about how we talk to each other because it's not just a reflection of yourself, but your education as well," said senior communications major Kevin Edwards.

Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, provost and senior vice president, remarked on the recent accomplishments by the university, including the SWAC Commissioners Cup won by the Lady Panthers basketball team.

Afterward, Noah Rattler, an alumnus and activist, spoke on his completion of an 1,800-mile walk for homelessness and how graduating from Prairie View changed his perspective.

As the assembly ended students did not appear to be sapped of energy, but confident that the year would yield to more student participation, success and opportunity for achievement.

English professor Freeman retires

By Whitney Harris
Panther Staff

After 18 years of service at Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Blondell Jones "Bee Jay" Freeman, distinguished professor of English, retired Aug. 31.

Freeman joined the university in 1989 as an associate professor for the Benjamin Banneker Honors College.

"I've been here since 'B.C.' or before coffee," said Freeman.

For five years Freeman worked side by side with professors and students in a program unique to PV.

The [Banneker Honors College] program was very competitive, you had to have a certain GPA to even be in the program.

Freeman taught English composition, Afro-American Literature and contributed her worldly knowledge and intellect to thousands of Prairie View students.

"There is no view like Prairie View. It's exciting, challenging, always a new view, sometimes a review, and a silent preview," said Freeman.

Freeman's education took her around the world by means of numerous programs, and teaching opportunities. She taught abroad in Tokyo, Japan, at a high school attached to the University of Tokyo for two years where she helped Japanese students learn the English language.

"That was terrific. Many of the Japanese thought I was an Ethi-

opian, which at first, I resented. The emperors of Japan and Ethiopia had an exchange program so when they saw anyone of my complexion they thought I had to be Ethiopian. There were three of us sent to Tokyo, and I was the only black."

In 1962, Freeman received a teaching certificate in English at Duke University. Freeman was one of the first 30 blacks allowed to live on campus.

Freeman received her master's degree in English from Atlanta University, the graduate school of Clark-Atlanta University in 1971, and her doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1987.

Freeman also became certified in radio and television in 1976 from the Educational Broadcasting Institute (EBI). The University of Mississippi, commonly referred to as Ole Miss, invited her to teach during its summer writing program for minorities the summers of 1991-94.

Freeman thoroughly enjoyed her various teaching opportunities. As an instructor, she often tried to be fair to all types of students and make everyone feel comfortable in their learning environments.

"I felt that if a student hasn't learned then a teacher hasn't taught," said Freeman. "I tried to teach the individual rather than a class."

Freeman is an active blood donor and a volunteer. She is a widow and has also survived her one daughter.

"I have a love affair each day for that day because I love life and I'm in love with life. You can cope much better when you love."

Financial aid from page 1

"Instead of having a 72-hour process to award students we now have a 48-hour process. Hopefully, by next year, this process will decrease to 24-hours or even on the same day," Clark said.

Vincent Smith, a senior architecture major, said, "I have noticed from talking to faculty from other major universities that our system is out of date and needs im-

provement. However, it is faster than when I first arrived here."

The financial aid office also plans to have consultants come from other major universities and assess the process of the financial aid system here.

"If students are still having problems with being reinstated due to financial aid reasons, it is important for them to make sure they contact the office before Sept. 17," Clark said.

Visit www.pvpanther.com

'Jena Six' picking up student support

By Vanessa Rozier
Black College Wire

A year ago, Mychal Bell was known in Jena, La., simply as a 16-year-old sophomore at Jena High School and a winning starter on its football team.

Today he stands convicted of aggravated second-degree battery and faces up to 22 years in prison.

He is nationally known as one of the young men called the Jena Six.

A rally is scheduled in Jena on Sept. 20 in conjunction with universities and individuals who wish to support the six.

The case began on Aug. 31, 2006, when a black student in Jena asked permission to sit underneath what was understood to be the "white" tree at school — and he did.

The next day, three nooses were found hanging from the tree. Three white students were held responsible and the principal recommended that they be expelled.

The school board and superintendent, however, decided that an in-school suspension would suffice.

Outraged, black students organized a protest and, again, sat underneath the "white" tree. Two incidents took place the next November weekend.

On the Friday night, Robert Bailey, one of the six, was punched and kicked at a party attended by mostly white students.

Then, Saturday, a confron-

tation took place between a group of black students and one of the white students involved in Friday's fight.

Once back at school, Justin Barker, a white student, teased Bailey about getting beaten Friday night and used racial slurs to do so.

One student punched Barker in the back of the head and others kicked him while he was down, leaving him unconscious.

An ambulance arrived to pick Barker up, but he was never officially hospitalized and, later that night, went to a school function.

Six black students were arrested over the Dec. 4 school fight and their bonds were set. The highest reached \$138,000.

Bell and the other five were charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy in the fight with Justin Barker.

On Sept. 4, charges for Carwin Jones and Theo Shaw were reduced to aggravated-second degree battery, the Associated Press reported, citing a media report.

In July, Bell became the first to stand trial. After being represented by a public defender who did not call witnesses in Bell's defense, an all-white jury convicted him of aggravated battery and conspiracy charges after two days of deliberation.

On Aug. 24, Bell was denied a reduction in the \$90,000 bail after prosecutors disclosed four previous brushes with the law.

On July 31, as many as 300 supporters rallied in Jena in support of Bell and all of the defendants.

Nation remembers 6th anniversary of 9/11

By Amy Westfeldt
and Sara Kugler
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) -- Victims' families huddled under umbrellas Tuesday in a park to mark the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the first remembrance ceremony not held at ground zero, an event that failed to evoke the same emotions as the hallowed ground of the World Trade Center site.

"I guess they mean well, but I really wasn't happy," said Sal Romagnolo, whose son, Joseph Romagnolo, worked in the trade center's north tower. "I never got my son back. That's the only place we have."

"I get nothing out of this park."

Around the country, Americans went through familiar mourning rituals as they looked back on the day when terrorists hijacked four jetliners and killed nearly 3,000 people.

President Bush attended ceremonies at the White House and the Pentagon, and the 40 passengers and crew members who died when a flight crashed into a Pennsylvania field were honored as "citizen soldiers."

The Manhattan ceremonies were held in a public park because of rebuilding at ground zero. First responders, volunteers and firefighters who helped rescue New Yorkers from the collapsing twin towers read the names of the city's 2,750 victims — a list that grew by one with the addition of a woman who died of lung disease in 2002.

"I want to acknowledge those lost post-9/11 as a result of answering the call, including police officer NYPD James Zadroga," said volunteer ambulance worker Reggie Cervantes-Miller. Zadroga, 34, died more than a year ago of respiratory illness after spending hundreds of

hours working to clean up ground zero.

Hundreds streamed out of the ceremony after about an hour and fewer than 60 remained at the end. The city estimated 3,500 family members and mourners turned out, down from 4,700 attendees at the fifth anniversary.

The city moved the ceremony this year because of progressing construction at the site, where several idle cranes overlooked a partially built transit hub, 1,776-foot office tower and Sept. 11 memorial.

Family members threatened to boycott the ceremony and hold their own remembrance if they were not granted access. The city and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey — which owns the trade center site — allowed relatives to descend a ramp to lay flowers inside a reflecting pool with two 6-foot outlines of the towers inside, and touch the ground where the trade center once stood.

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani returned to ground zero Tuesday, despite objections by several victims' families and firefighters who said he should not speak at the remembrance because he is running for president.

Giuliani was greeted with a smattering of applause after his brief remarks, which followed the third of the traditional four moments of silence: one each to mark the times when the two planes hit the buildings, and two more for when each tower fell.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has presided over each of the anniversary events, described Sept. 11, 2001, as "the day that tore across our history and our hearts. We come together again as New Yorkers and as Americans to share a loss that can't be measured."

As in years past, people clutched photos of their lost loved ones, raising them toward the sky.

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Prairie View A&M University

September 2007

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THE PANTHER

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University



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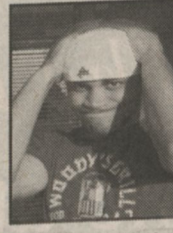
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From the editorial board

Panther pride...do you bleed purple and gold?

Welcome back Panthers, new and old! The Panther hopes that everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer, returning full of energy and new ideas for the quickly moving semester. By now, everyone should be settled in and ready for a productive, safe, and

pus. Students pay fees for the library yet were unable to use it to its full capacity. We understand that the financial aid staff is working diligently to meet everyone's needs, but we suggest that they strive to be as understanding and student-friendly as possible. It

ter to the front of the eating area and open that area for seating, which in turn would open another tray return window. The gate by Chick-Fil-A could be closed and people wouldn't be able to enter or leave through the eating area. We don't know if this will work, but it

“We thought it was shameful for college students to be told the obvious thing to do.”

spirit-filled semester on “The Hill!”

There are a few concerns that we noticed during the first couple weeks of the semester and would like to not only address but also offer some suggestions based on our observations.

First, every year financial aid seems to develop a new system or program that doesn't seem to either alleviate the wait time in the financial aid line or decrease the number of students affected by financial aid issues. This year, financial aid moved to the library which didn't make lines move any faster and also inconvenienced students by taking away the most important computer lab on cam-

would be helpful if the financial aid office could find more ways to communicate with students besides the Prairie View e-mail system, which isn't very dependable. Both commuters and on-campus students see the marquee in front of the school and important messages could be broadcast on it. Also, signs around campus would be useful. Maybe a stand-alone bulletin board could be added to the cafeteria where students would definitely see the signs while waiting in line or entering or leaving the cafeteria.

Second, the MSC cafeteria is entirely too small and overcrowded. The first couple weeks are usually the worst. We considered that Sodexo could move the cash regis-

seems that it will open more seating and another dish return area, which is always crowded and hectic.

In addition, signs were placed on top of the tables in the cafeteria to advise student to pick up their dishes. We thought it was shameful for college students to be told the obvious thing to do. As students, we shouldn't have to be instructed to clean up after ourselves. We think that upperclassmen should set an example and lead the younger students not only with something as simple as putting up dishes but school spirit and student morale. This is our campus and we need to take pride in it before anyone else will.

Send us your feedback: Suggestion Box

The Panther wants to know what you think. Send your thoughts, responses, and ideas to panther@pvamu.edu. What would you like to see in the next edition of *The Panther*? Let us know! This is a student publication and we would like to know what the students want. Email us today at panther@pvamu.edu!

Prostitution...legalize it

Let's talk logically about the way a few things in our society are structured. Putting aside all of our individual feelings on the matter and completely approaching the subject of law and order is a difficult thing to do, but when it comes to thinking about the future of our democracy, I think it's a sacrifice we can all make. Liberty, to the average man, is defined as the cornerstone of American society. A simple mention of the concept in modern mass media is often accompanied by noble images of a culturally diverse people living side by side in this wonderful republic of ours. And yet—there are some aspects of liberty most would rather not have

ate people who drink until their livers fail, and it has never passed a single law against overeating—all activities that pose some health risk to those who engage in them. The social contract goes like this: the people say to the government, “stay out of our lives, it isn't your place to protect us from ourselves,” and the government replies, “OK, as long as you're not killing one another, you can kill yourselves just fine.” It seems like a pretty clear-cut system. But there is an inexplicable aspect of the system; certain substances that are illegal to have, even if the only damage one can cause with them is self-inflicted.

Most of the drugs that are

anyway. When did the prohibition doublethink sneak into our society? We realize that prohibiting alcohol was a bad idea at the turn of the century, and yet we attempt to do the same things with other substances.

It doesn't end there; another aspect of the American legal institution that is simply inconsistent is the prohibition of prostitution. With few exceptions, most American prostitutes are forced into a black market industry that leads to exploitation and health concerns. In most places where prostitution is regulated, such as Nevada, the workers are protected, the government provides health checkups to the workers, and most clients are required to wear

“Why is it illegal to sell something that is perfectly legal to give away?”

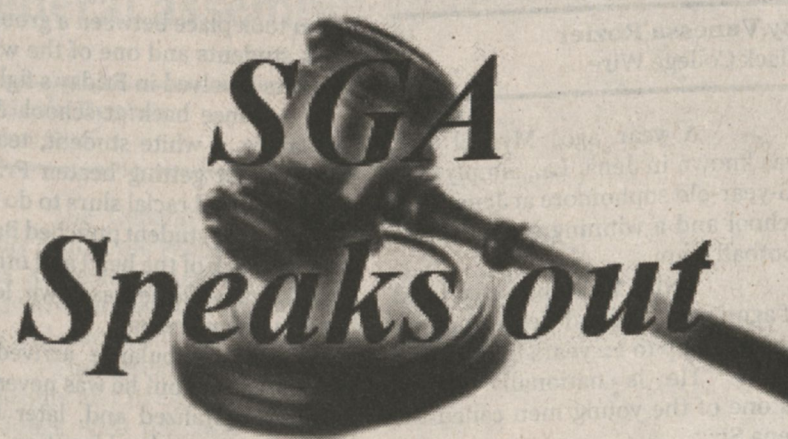
to deal with. A woman in this country is (for the time being) within her full legal rights to abort her unborn child. Many of us find the thought of something like that disgusting and immoral, but that very act is inextricably caught up in the paradigm of liberty we hold so dear.

In the same vein, we must think of the liberty afforded to those citizens who choose to kill themselves voluntarily. America doesn't lock up smokers (though the restrictions on where they can do it seem to compound weekly), the government doesn't incarcer-

illegal in this country are illegal for a reason; overdependence or abuse of these substances can cause severe addiction and ruin many lives. This is not the issue; it is an alienation of the very social contract we've established with our system; we can make the decision to kill ourselves just fine, the government doesn't need to give us that kind of protection. It is a restriction of your liberty, and an overextension of the power of government to legalize substances with which consenting adults can purchase and kill themselves. Practically, it doesn't make any sense

condoms. Regulated and legalized prostitution is safer for the workers, and is a matter of our liberty. Why is it illegal to sell something that is perfectly legal to give away? People are afforded the freedom to work in any other way to sustain a lifestyle, so why should this be an exception? It isn't a matter of your individual morality; whether or not you believe drugs and prostitution should be legal, it is a matter of consistency in the American legal system. Until these concerns are addressed, freedom will still be a pipe dream for the American way of life.

Jerrell Allen



The Student Government Association has decided to respond to the “Jena 6” situation by hosting a discussion forum on Monday, Sept. 17 in the criminal justice building at 7 p.m. SGA and other organizations plan to attend a rally on Sept. 20 in Jena, La. The SGA has also issued the following statement:

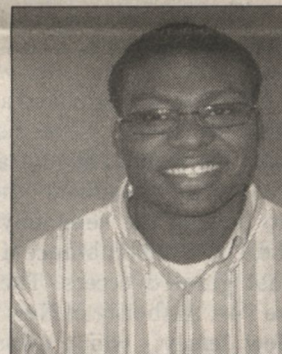
“While there are many issues facing the black community, we feel that this outrageous disregard for equality and blatant act of racism deserves the

attention of our students and the nation. While we do not condone the violence that has taken place, we stand with others around the nation in reaffirming their right to a fair trial, proper legal defense, and the proper media coverage that these shameful events often merit, but hardly receive. Acknowledging the fact that Louisiana is our neighboring state, this type of injustice directly affects us. If these acts are not efficiently addressed in a timely manner, we could be doing ourselves an injustice by if not condoning, lying dormant.”

PURPLE & GOLD POLL

By Jerrell Allen
Online Editor

How do you feel about the Michael Vick case?



“Michael Vick is a good person, he just made some wrong decisions.”

Johnnie Jones III
Junior
Agriculture and Economics



“I think the situation was blown out of proportion. He should pay but it shouldn't be such a big deal.”

Ashley Smith
Junior
Criminal Justice



“I think he was too arrogant about it. He's wrong for doing it. Cruelty to animals is horrible.”

Amber Price
Junior
Nursing

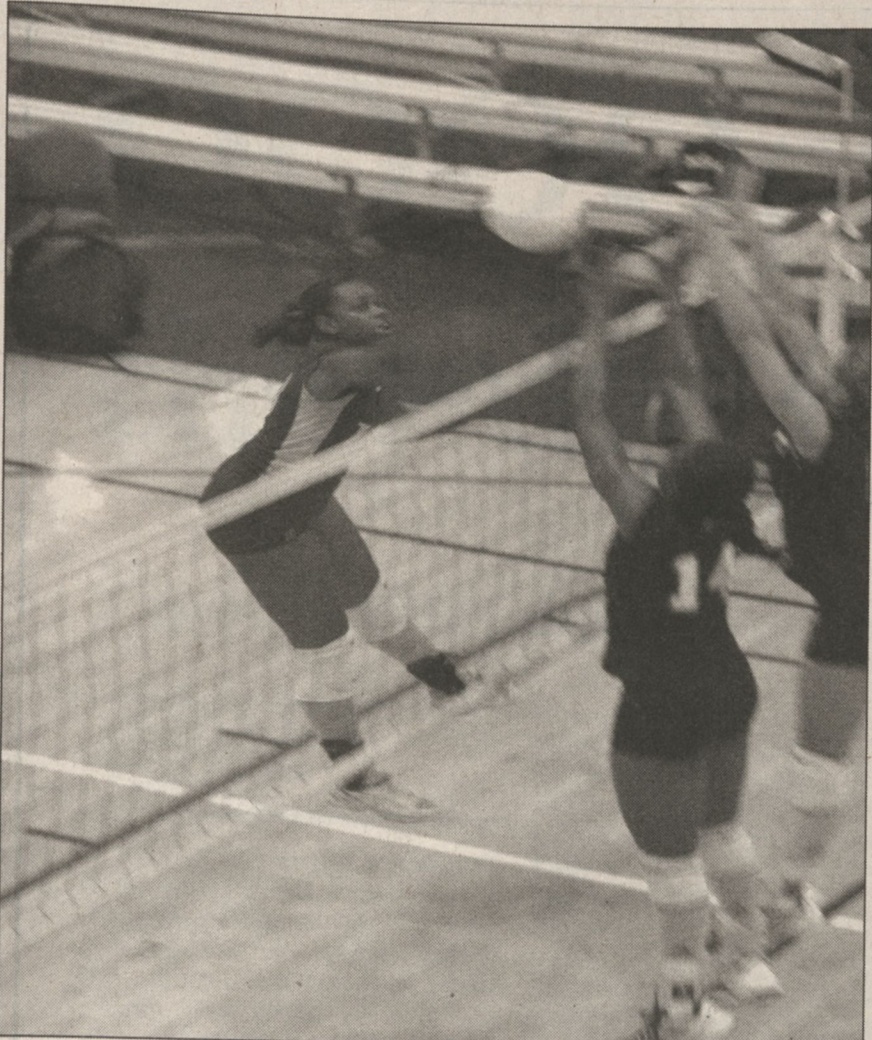


“He is guilty by association. He says he wasn't involved, but he let it go on in his house.”

Charnasa Nnamani
Sophomore
Education

Check out *The Panther*
online at
www.pvpanther.com

Volleyball sets off new season



Get Some: Lady Panther splits defenders

By Evan White, The Panther

Dontae McCray
Panther Staff

The 2007 volleyball season is under way and defending SWAC champions, the Lady Panthers played in the Texas Southern season opener invitational Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 in Houston.

The Lady Panthers took on fellow SWAC title contenders Mississippi Valley State Lady Devils and the University of Texas at El Paso Lady Miners.

During their match against the Devils the Panthers were successful and won the match in four games with scores of 20-30, 30-25, 30-22 and 30-14.

In their second match the Lady Panthers lost to the Lady Miners in three games with scores of 16-30, 15-30, 16-30.

On the second day of the invitational, the Lady Panthers

faced the Lady Tigers of Texas Southern University, and the University of Louisiana Monroe Lady Warhawks; the team was victorious in both match-ups. The Panthers defeated the Lady Tigers in four games with scores of 30-24, 30-13, 30-25 and 30-28. Prairie View defeated the Lady Warhawks in three games with scores of 30-22, 30-28 and 30-28.

The Lady Panthers participated in the Southern Methodist volleyball tournament in Moody Coliseum in Dallas Sept. 7-8.

They took on the University of Mississippi Lady Rebels, Sam Houston State Bearkats, and the Southern Methodist University Lady Mustangs. The Panthers unfortunately were not victorious in their match-ups, losing to the Lady Rebels in three games 24-30, 30-23, 30-19, the Lady Bearkats 30-15, 32-30, 30-20 and the Lady Mustangs 30-24, 30-23, 30-19.

Soccer team maintains high spirits and hopes

Dedtric Ray
Panther Staff

The Prairie View A&M University Lady Panthers soccer team kicked off its 2007 season in Hammond, La; With two hard-fought losses, 1-2 and 1-4 to Southeastern Louisiana and South Alabama.

The Lady Panthers went into an overtime thriller with Southeastern Louisiana in what was a highly competitive match.

"It had been a tight match the whole game," said senior defender Briana Mouttet. "We were very confident going into overtime and we had a lot of momentum."

Southeastern struck first blood within the first four minutes of the game. The Lady Panthers wouldn't get the chance to score until the 85 minute mark.

In overtime, Southeastern had the final word, with 20 seconds left in overtime; Dana Mayer of Southeastern Louisiana sealed the game, with a goal assisted by teammate Janae Sheldon. With the final score 2-1, the Lady Panthers received their first loss.

The next day, the team faced South Alabama.

South Alabama scored twice within ten minutes while Prairie View's only goal came from freshman forward Angelica Diaz, assisted by Brenda Castillo.

The Lady Jaguars of South Alabama attempted a total of 26 shots while the Lady Panthers had a total of three attempts. The final score was 4-1.

Although the Lady Panthers have started the season 0-2, they are looking to improve as the season goes on.

"We have two early losses, but we are still confident that we will have a successful season," said senior Emily Scarborough. "I think that as the season progresses, we'll continue to improve."

The Lady Panthers' next opponent will be Houston Baptist University on Sept. 15.

Lady Panther Volleyball Invitational Sept. 14-15 TBA

Williams-Weaver set to take over women's track and field

By Andrew Roberts
Panther Correspondent

The Prairie View A&M University Department of Athletics has announced the hiring of Angela Williams-Weaver as the new head womens track and field coach, as well as head womens cross country coach. Williams-Weaver arrives on "The Hill" after a successful stint as a high school coach in Houston.

"As head coach here at Prairie View A&M University, I want to develop strong focused student-athletes that can compete on any level" said Williams-Weaver. "As an athlete you have to be disciplined and you must have a lot of dedication to your sport."

Williams-Weaver is no stranger to success as she has competed on one of the grand stages of sports competition, appearing at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games. She was also the first female athlete in the history of Seton Hall University Athletics to earn All-American recognition. From 1989 to 1996 she was selected as a World Class Athlete for her achievements on the track.

"My ultimate goal is to put our young ladies in positions where they can go out and make the U.S.A Olympic track and field team," said Williams-Weaver. "I believe in setting goals at a high but reachable level. With hard work and dedication there's no reason why those goals can't be achieved."

PV Athletes of the Week

Women's Volleyball - Picked to be the division winners in a poll of the conference's head coaches and sports information directors. Currently lead the SWAC in digs.

SWAC Volleyball Week One Defensive Player of the Week: Tamika Newman

Football Defense: Three interceptions, seven sacks, twenty tackles for loss (82 yards), three recovered fumbles

SWAC Football Week One Defensive Player of the Week: Zach East

Football Special Teams: Val Ford and Riante Jones named Football Championship Subdivision Players of the Week, four blocked punts, and one safety.

Women's Soccer: Goalie Jessica Garcia has 25 saves.

Panthers bask in the Labor Day Classic victory over TSU

Richard White
Sports Editor

The Prairie View A&M University football team took home the hardware at the 23rd Annual Labor Day Classic, as they gracefully battled and seized the win against Texas Southern.

The game started off slow for both teams, as neither Prairie View nor Texas Southern could put anything on the scoreboard. The Prairie View offense and defense soon found its rhythm as the game persisted.

The first quarter consisted of three drives from Prairie View that resulted in three punts. Texas Southern's quarterback, Tino Edgecombe moved the ball efficiently down the field, but a missed field goal, and two punts was the result of the first quarter from Texas Southern.

In the second quarter where the Panthers stepped up and took control of the game. The spark came from an Anthony Beck blocked

field goal at the nine-minute mark. Things settled down for both teams, but the fire started for Prairie View at the 1:41 min. mark, as the Panther offense got in sync and had a steady drive that came to an end with a 34 yard field goal by Brady Faggard, closing the first half.

With the start of the third, the Panthers immediately picked up where they left off, with an untouched 51-yard touchdown scamper from quarterback Chris Gibson (Faggard PAT). The next big stop, came from a Zach East, SWAC Defensive Player of the Week, fumble recovery. Next to find the end zone for the Panthers was running back Calvin Harris, who tacked on six more with a six-yard touchdown run (Faggard PAT). An Edward Moore interception would bring the ball back to the Prairie View offense, where kicker Brady Faggard would add on three more points from twenty-three yards out.

The fourth quarter would bring about some trouble, for the Prairie View defense.

Texas Southern's Tino

Edgecombe drilled passes down the field, but was intercepted twice. One which was ran back 92 yards for a touchdown by Anthony Beck, and one that was snatched by Max Sercherey.

Texas Southern soon caught Prairie View's defense sleeping with a 54 yard touchdown pass, making the score 27-7.

The following drive, quarterback Mark Spivey would dive into the end zone from two yards out, which sealed the game for the Panthers.

Texas Southern followed with a 32-yard touchdown pass, but that would not be nearly enough to defeat the Panthers, with the final score of 34-14.

Offensive leaders were Chris Gibson who had 123 yards rushing, 103 yards passing, and Anthony Weeden with four catches.

Defensive standouts were Edward Moore with 14 tackles, Zach East with 13 tackles, and Marquis Johnson with two sacks. Specialist Brady Faggard went 2/2 on field goal attempts, and 4/4 PAT attempts.



Evan White, The Panther

Jump for Joy: PV football excited after the win.



By Evan White, The Panther

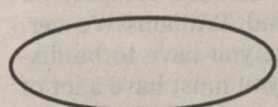
Shake and Bake: Calvin Harris jukes his way through the TSU defense.

When you're on a search
and rescue mission you
can't help but get jazzed!
The trees blur, the rotors
thump, the wind whips by.
It's awesome! Getting to
work was never so much
fun. But that's just the
search. The rescue is
the reward.

7. The 7:30am walk to class in the rain is a lot better with a soundtrack.



True



False

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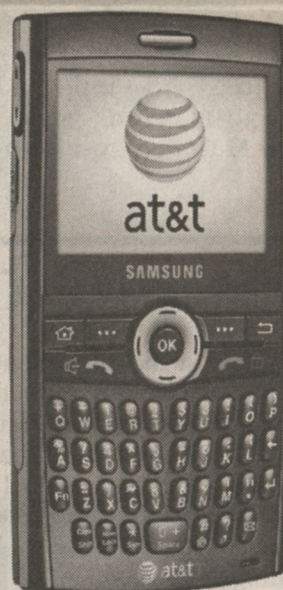
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OOOOpppps... they did it again

The MTV VMAs draw some eyes and a few stirs

By David Butler
L/H and A/E Editor

If you needed a reason to watch the 2007 Video Music Awards on Sunday night on MTV, I have two words for you. Britney Spears. Actually, here are two more words for you. Train wreck.

Spears was the opening act for the show, a rumor that has been floating around since the pop singer announced she is recording a comeback album that is set to be released in November.

Whether or not you like her music, she was given a huge benefit of the doubt before even touching the stage. For one, she is a "celebrated" veteran in this industry. One can only sing a dance for so long before some one takes heed to the performers' message. From Mickey Mouse Club to "Coo Coo for Coco Puffs Club," Spears has had her fair share of the spotlight without any tap on the shoulder, disgruntled face, or light whisper in the ear of, "Hey, maybe you should call it quits." Secondly, the award show was in Las Vegas; couldn't anything happen there.

Well, for starters, Britney Spears does need that subtle tap on the shoulder. Honestly. She might

even deserve her own scrolling marquee in the middle of Times Square filled with viewer comments and anonymous celebrity comments. It (her performance) was horrible! There has been more talent leaked into an intermission of a Trae concert.

It caused a stir in the Palms Hotel, where the network literally brought down the house, (there was a slew of fans, performances and celebs) that there might have been a little tension in the air. Kanye West, one of the headline performers and top nominees, was reported to have been slightly perturbed. We can replace slightly with super, and perturbed with pissed. West was spotted throwing a "B.F." at how MTV was "treating" him. He felt MTV had their hands in being against him by allowing him to perform only in the suites of the hotel (where numerous performances were being held) instead of on the main stage. "He said, 'Brit hasn't had a hit in like 5 million years and she opens the show?!?' " a source said. With West being the man of words that he is, he definitely didn't take heed of any opportunity to voice his opinion on stage when he and 50 Cent presented the best Duet Performance Video award. Their introduction was followed by a very

short staring contest, that one might say 50 won, and utter silence. They might not have read the words in the teleprompter, but neither one said more than was given.

In other news, during Alicia Keys' performance, rappin'-cowboy Kid Rock and super bad boy Tommy Lee got into a scuffle. It is reported that out of nowhere, Kid Rock punched Lee in the mouth, three rows from the main stage. Lee wasn't able to retaliate before security hauled him away. Talk about family problems. Both are ex-husbands of Pamela Anderson. When Jamie Foxx made it to the stage to present an award, he made light of the situation. "Stop all this white on white violence," he said.

The night was quite a feast though. Newly legalized heart throb, Chris Brown, gave a more than amazing performance. Jumping over and on the tables placed in the audience, and reinventing the "Beat It" performance where Michael Jackson revealed his patented moonwalk, Brown ceases to never come up short.

If you missed any of the action, there is a horde of videos, interviews, stories, and even the whole show from beginning to end online. Visit www.vma.mtv.com for all the updates.



Top left: Definitely not poppin': Lil' Mama shows up on the red carpet with a little less than a heart attack bearing baby outfit. Slightly early for Halloween by a month or so.

Bottom left: Sexy back?: Britney Spears received a few "oohs and aahs", but they weren't all about her killer dance moves. Pictured here, Spears engulfed by her dancers, gives a facial expression that could only spell disaster.

Top Right: Nothing but the best: Chris Brown may have been in the top list of favorite acts. His performances of his own songs were highlighted by a historical remake of "Beat It."

Panther-At-Work Community Service Project

Saturday, September 22, 2007

Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Intramural Gymnasium (New Gym)
(Canned food donation required for breakfast)
Check-In: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Intramural Gymnasium (New Gym)
Registration: Dates: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 thru Monday, September 17, 2007
No registration after September 17, 2007

Locations:

Office of Institutional Relations and Public Service-A.I. Thomas Bldg. Suite 102
Division of Academic Enhancement- Delco Bldg. Room 228
Office of Student Activities and Leadership-MSC Room 221

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T-Shirt Pick-up: Pick up T-Shirts September 22, 2007 during check in.

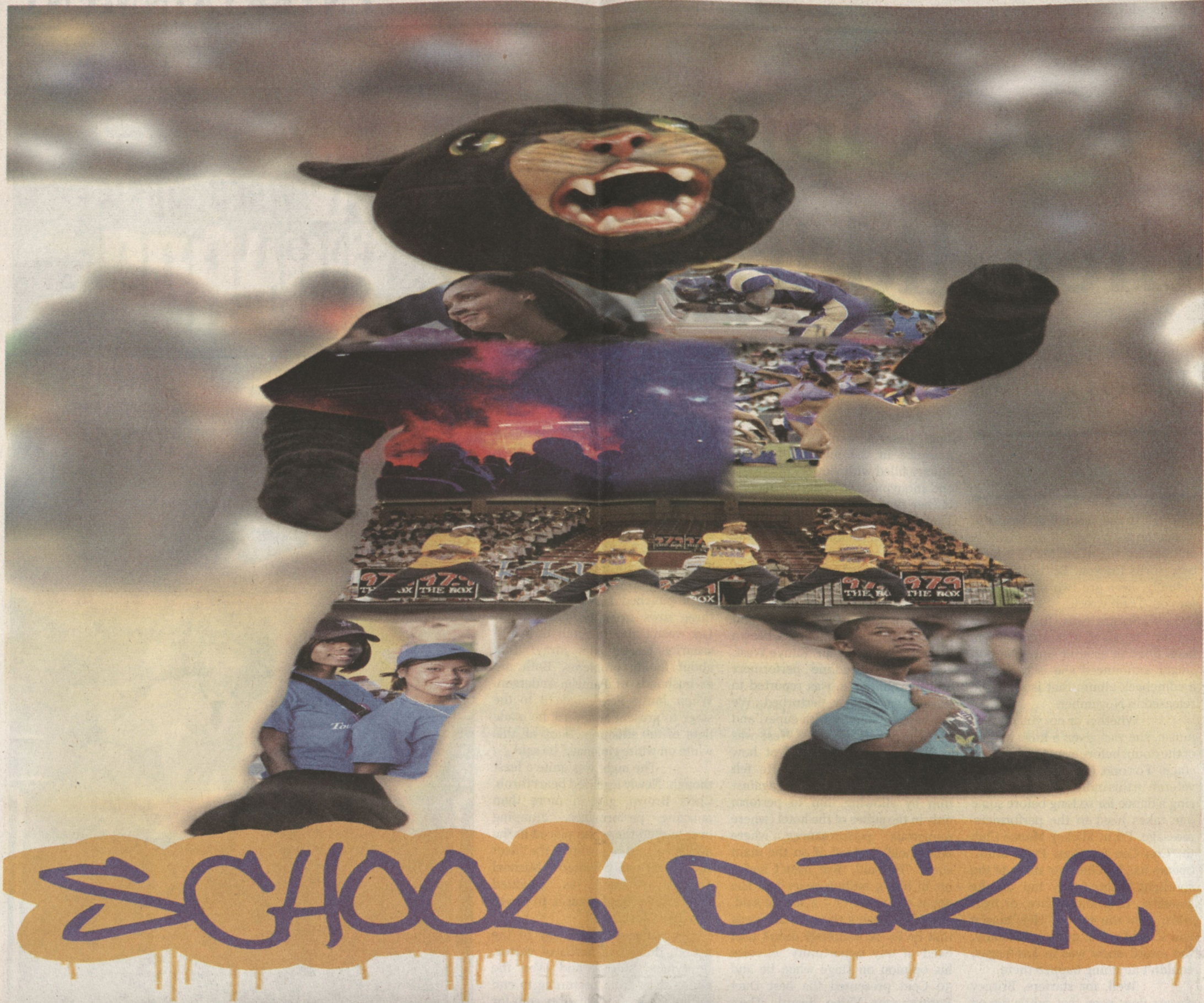
Dress Code: Long pants, closed toe shoes (required)
Hats, sunglasses and sunscreen (optional)

Thanks for your kind attention. I'll call you to touch base next week.

20 QUESTIONS

1. Doesn't it feel great to attend a university where financial aid meets, but not in the financial aid office? 2. Speaking of the library, why does it look like a scene from Transformers? 3. Isn't it just peachy that when you get really hungry the only place to eat is closed? 4. Or still only Williams Chicken? 5. Are jokes about the football team a little over rated? 6. I mean they did travel all the way to L.A. and won. Right? 7. What loser really tried to find Laguna Beach? 8. At the classic, whose daddy was that with the spinning rim around his neck? 9. For my people who walked, but received no diploma, how does it feel? 10. Kinda sucks when that registrar lady is reminding you of your drop date, huh? 11. For all my scholars, how do you spell "YHHUUUUULLLL?" 12. If we get Soulja Boy to come for Homecoming, will that boost sales? 13. Who is gonna be the next YouTube star? 14. What rivalry will be bigger, Curtis v. Graduation, or Kappa Mixtape v. Sigma Mixtape? 15. Straight up, do the Sigmas know they have no chance? 16. Who still watches reality TV? 17. And praying that a show comes here? 18. Can someone please teach people what discretion is? 19. What happened to hump day? 20. What do you think?

This is for **entertainment** only. The questions submitted are not the views of **The Panther**. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail us at panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of **The Panther**.



College Student Day

Sunday, September 23rd
11:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church
Owens Road, Prairie View, TX
(few blocks east of the campus)

Special Music by the "Voices of Distinction"
Wilmer R. Bonner, Pastor
"Your friendly church away from home"
Dinner will be served.

This Week On The Hill

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007

LATE Graduation
Application Deadline for
December Graduation

4 p.m. - 11 p.m.
University College
Talent Revue Showcase @
MSC Auditorium Rm. 111

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Delta Sigma Theta
Pageant Meeting, Student
Lounge

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
SIFE
Freshman Talent
Showcase, New Science
Rm. 104

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Epsilon Gamma Iota
Meeting, Samuel R.
Collins Rm. 139

Friday, Sept. 14, 2007

Late Graduation Applica-
tion Deadline For
December Graduation

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Multicultural Affairs
Hispanic Heritage Celebra-
tion, Student Center Foyer

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Alpha Lambda Omega/
Gamma Phi Omega
Health Seminar, WR
Banks Rm. 208

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007

Late Graduation Applica-
tion Deadline For
December Application

5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Alpha Phi Alpha
Golden Oak Legacy Award
& Recognition Program @
MSC Ballroom 204

6 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.
CAB
Post New Year Bash @
Baby Dome

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007

6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Delta Sigma Theta
Meeting, SR Collins Rm.
116

Monday, Sept. 17, 2007

7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Career Services
Fall 2007 Career Fair
Activities, MSC Ballroom,
Conference Rm. 201, 202,
203

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Student Activities
Constitution Day, Water
Fountain

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Cultural Series/Special
Programs
Lecture: Making College
Count, Library Rm. 108

4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
CAB
Board Meetings,
Harrington Science Rm.
121

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2006

7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Career Services
Fall 2007 Career Fair
Activities, MSC Ballroom,
Conference Rm. 201, 202,
203

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
SGA
Elections, Student Center
Foyer

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
SIFE
Meeting, Hobart Taylor
Rm. 1A110

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Gamma Phi Delta
Seminar: True Disciple,
Student Lounge

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Public Safety
Supervisor's Meeting,
Conference Rm. 201

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
CAB
CABHump Day, Alumni
Field

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
FOCCS
Bible Studies, Chapel

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Career Services
Career Services Career Fair
Activities, MSC Auditor-
ium Rm. 111

Weather



Sun and clouds with a
t-storm
High: 86 °F
Low: 71 °F



A p.m. t-storm possible
High: 87 °F
Low: 73 °F



Partly sunny with a t-storm
High: 90 °F
Low: 70 °F



Sunny
High: 90 °F
Low: 69 °F



Sunny
High: 90 °F
Low: 69 °F



Plenty of sun
High: 91 °F
Low: 67 °F



Sunshine and patchy
clouds
High: 88 °F
Low: 66 °F